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Scrutiny backed for CIA, FBI

Washington (AP)—The intelligence-gathering policies of agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency, FBI and Internal Revenue Service should be subject to the same type of public scrutiny "as any other important government enterprise," according to the Watergate special prosecutor.

In a final report capping 28 months of investigation, the special prosecutor recommended yesterday that each intelligence agency make its policies public and that the justification for each of those policies be subject to review by a presidentially appointed panel.

Noting that "most of what goes awry in intelligence functions can be laid to secret, subjective judgments," the report said the public policy statements should include "the purposes for which intelligence is to be gathered, the methods to be used in obtaining information, [and] the kinds of information to be sought."

In some areas, such as the President's right to order wiretaps and break-ins conducted without a court order in cases involving national security, the courts ultimately will have to decide what powers the government has, the report said. Pending such a decision, the administration should make public "in as great detail as possible the factors and standards" used in ordering such searches and seizures without warrants, the special prosecutor said.

"This is obviously a matter of great public importance, affecting not only basic constitutional rights but also the national security," the report said.

Colby admits foot-dragging

Williamsburg, Va. (AP)—William E. Colby said yesterday the Central Intelligence Agency could have gone to prosecutors with information about Watergate earlier than it did, but, "We didn't fall all over ourselves rushing to the policemen."

The agency's director replied to an allegation by Seymour M. Hersh, the New York Times reporter who wrote about illegal domestic spying by the CIA. Mr. Hersh said the CIA "could have blown the whistle at any time" about Watergate.

"I think Sy is right," Mr. Colby said. "In fact, we didn't fall all over ourselves rushing to the policemen."

Mr. Hersh and Mr. Colby participated in a panel discussion at the Associated Press Managing Editors 42d annual meeting.